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American Council on Race Relations Criticizes WRA's Liquidation Program

CHICAGO. — The August issue of the monthly News Letter issued by the American Council on Race Relations severely criticizes the WRA, the principal government agency responsible for the relocation of Japanese American citizens who were evacuated from their West Coast homes following the Pearl Harbor attack, for its insistence upon "carrying out its own liquidation program."

Claiming that "WRA seems fully convinced that its record depends primarily upon the closing of all relocation centers by the end of the year," the American Council News Letter points out that, "The government, which assumed full responsibility for moving them (Japanese internees) out of their homes, should assume equal responsibility for facilitating their return."

The American Council also voices the belief that in the event the WRA liquidation program is carried out by December 31, the Japanese relocation problem will be increased because of a lack of housing and employment opportunities for the relocatees.

"Five hundred housing units in the Bay area on the West Coast, which were supposed to be available to returning evacuees, have not materialized," the American Council News Letter declares, "and there are still a number of employment opportunities closed to the Nisei despite the fact that Japanese in the Hawaiian Islands have been permitted employment on similar jobs."

"It is also true," the News Letter continues, "that although various governmental agencies have strengthened their stand in behalf of the return of loyal Japanese to the West Coast, specific action by such agencies must be immeasurably fortified if all Japanese who wish to return are to do so peacefully and equitably by the end of the year."

A number of non-governmental

tal agencies that have cooperated with the WRA in its relocation program thus far are said by the American Council to be in agreement that WRA is being too hasty in its attempt to close by the end of the year. Among the agencies named in this connection are the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play and the Federal Council of Churches.

The News Letter also claims that there are some "private groups on the West Coast" that are alarmed over WRA's decision to liquidate by December 31 and which are now attempting to work out "some uniform alternative agreements and recommendations to be made to the WRA and the Interior Department."

"Either cooperating agencies must greatly intensify their support of the WRA program immediately or an alternative program MUST be agreed upon," the News Letter declares.

Petition Requests Release of Five Jailed Japanese

SACRAMENTO. — The release from imprisonment at the Tule Lake Relocation Center of five Japanese youths is sought in writs of habeas corpus petitions filed in the federal district court here.

The petitions, filed by Ernest Besig, Northern California director of the American Civil Liberties Union, charge the five Japanese are being held in prison in violation of the United States Constitution provisions granting fair and impartial trials.

The defendants named in the writs, Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes, R. R. Best, director at Tule Lake; Robert Cozens, assistant director, and Dillon S. Myer, director of the WRA, are

To The Nisei, The End Is Their Future Hope

They Fear 'Outside World'; Seek Normal Life

NEW YORK. — There is joy at the New York Relocation Hostel for Japanese Americans, 168 Clinton St., Brooklyn.

One elderly Nisei summed up his feelings this way:

"The war is over for us here and for the Japanese overseas."

The men who gathered in the front-room of the 14-room house listened to the radio all day for the latest developments. Although they shied away from discussion of the proposed peace, Mrs. Eldon Burke, director of the hostel said "they were all perfectly delighted when the news came."

George Suyama, 31, of 9 W. 91 St., a discharged veteran, visiting the hostel said:

"I think it is best to end it quickly. Our men will come home. There will be no more militarism in Japan. The country has really been destroyed this time. I don't think it will be a country again for more than 50 years."

"I think we can maintain peace. It will not matter about the Emperor. He is unimportant. But what this will mean to me, I don't know. Who can say anything about the future?"

Sixty-year-old Jisaburo Kasai,

ordered to appear in court here August 20th to show cause why the petitions should not be granted.

The petitions charge the Japanese, ranging in ages from 15 to 17, were sentenced to jail terms ranging from 120 to 250 days on charges of violating a "pretended rule of blowing a bugle and wearing certain clothes."

The youths are Haruo Tateyama, 15, native of Clarksburg, Yolo County; Thomas T. Imagawa, 17, native of Freepore, Sacramento County; Shozo Takahashi, 16, San Martin; Shozo Yamashita, 17, Salinas, and Saigo Oyada, 17, Irvington.

house father and caretaker, who has a son in the Army was more willing to talk. He said:

"It looks like the war is over. I am sure that the Emperor is just a figure head. The Emperor has no authority. All political responsibility rests with the cabinet."

Misunderstanding

LOS ANGELES. — Everyone, regardless of race, is up against some tough situations in these days of war shortages — which are bound to continue for some time through the days of peace.

Relocates shop and do business and mix with the public — hardly a soul gives them as much as a second glance. People are too busy with their own problems, and anyway it's hard to distinguish between the various races of the Orient. Who can say this man is a Korean, that a Chinese, that a Filipino?

Yes, it is true that some misunderstandings will arise, for everyone is a bit on edge. But those misunderstandings are individual — not racial.

Those away for over 3 years will find it takes a little time to get the swing of every-day life again. But be objective in viewpoint!

Misunderstandings arise daily with all of the citizens. Laugh them off!

Caldwell WFA Camp Labor Day Celebration Set

CALDWELL, Ida. — The Caldwell WFA Camp will be the scene of the Caldwell Labor Day celebration on Sept. 3rd. There will be a baseball tournament which will begin in the morning and continue throughout the day. The carnival will be

What's Going On?

News of Californians You May Know

WATSONVILLE. — The first group of evacuees to be employed in the Monterey Fish Cannery were signed up recently by the cannery and the union. They were to start work Aug. 2. Transportation to and from work is to be provided with chartered buses which seat over 40 workers. Many men and women are needed in the canneries.

STOCKTON. — A 25-person hostel has been opened at 23 North Stockton Street, Lodi.

WATSONVILLE. — A new hotel with a capacity of 20 guests opened here August 3, at 57 Union Street. Available for returnees, it will be managed by Satoru Kokka and Shigeru Murata.

SACRAMENTO. — Through local CIO headquarters, three returnees have secured good jobs at the California Rice Growers Association plant in West Sacramento. They are: Ray Nakamoto, Idaho; Bob Muraki, Topaz; Joseph Iwata, Chicago.

STOCKTON. — Moichira Nakamura is rounding up a group of 35 men to harvest grapes near Lodi. He has taken over 120 acres of grapes owned by the American Fruit Company and plans to pack the fruit and later prune the vines. He estimates continuous work for the group for at least 6 months.

OAKLAND. — A new hostel, managed by Norio Ozaki, has been opened here at 576 Sycamore Street. It has a capacity of 16 persons and is available to returnees.

SACRAMENTO. — Melvin Crites is managing a hostel for returnees to Live Oak, California. The hostel has a capacity of 12 persons and is under the sponsorship of the Church of the Brethren.

STOCKTON. — Mrs. Masaki Agari and her sister, Shigeko Tabuchi, have positions as secretaries with the College of Pacific here.

Mrs. Agari returned recently from Minneapolis, where she went to be near her husband, Jun Agari, then stationed at Ft. Snelling.

SACRAMENTO. — The school situation here for children of returnees is good. School officials in various parts of the surrounding area have been contacted

in the early afternoon. A dance in the evening will conclude the day. Everybody is invited.

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First Coachella Valley Nisei Wins Commission

LOS ANGELES. — Robert Sakai, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Sakai who are returning to the Valley from Poston, has been commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant. He is the first of the Coachella Valley Nisei to receive a commission.

Mary Jane Kinoshita, 20, of Seattle, said: "In fact, we hope the official announcement doesn't come until tomorrow, because we always want to celebrate Aug. 14 as our wedding anniversary instead of V-J Day."

But V-J Day or not, she married Lt. Joseph Hashizaki, 28, of Joliet, Mont., Tuesday, because he had only an eight-day leave from Fort Snelling, Minn.

Half a world away from the death pangs of an ancient empire, its democratic descendants, both born in this country, watched a "completely American wedding ceremony. Even the old American tradition of 'something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue,' was followed by the bride."

"I'm wearing my sister's pink pearls, a blue ribbon, my old shoes and a new pink suit," Mary Jane said.

The couple met last March while Mary Jane was studying at St. Catherine's College in St. Paul. It was not long after that they decided to be married Aug. 14, not knowing the international significance of that date.

"It was almost love at first sight," Mary Jane said. They came to Chicago to be married because Mary Jane's sister, Imelda, lives here at 2464 Geneva ter.

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